

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ~~SECRET~~ REPORT

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4. It is very difficult at the present time to get medicaments in Czech pharmacies; it is even hard to obtain most common drugs, like aspirin. It is almost impossible to get glycerin. It might be true that under the promulgated national insurance act the vast majority of the Czech population is theoretically given free medicaments when sick, but the doctors have strict orders to prescribe medicaments only in the smallest quantities and in urgently needy cases. [] since the national insurance act went into effect, the scarcity of medicaments has been caused by the shortages of raw materials for their production, and rather extensive hoarding tendencies. Streptomycin is unobtainable for individuals and is used only in sanatoriums. It is administered to people under 45 years of age as a last resort only. [] in some sanatoriums streptomycin is extracted from the urine of patients it has been administered to, and used again for other patients.

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